



# THE FOPABL HOOT

ALL THE NEWS THAT'S FIT TO HOOT!



Vol. 2 No. 5

February 15, 2019

## The Campaign for a Permanent Home is Gathering Steam!



As we have reported in past issues of HOOT, the Friends of the Piedmont Avenue Branch Library, or FOPABL, is moving forward with a campaign for to find a permanent home for our library. Remember that the temporary space we occupy now is ours for only 3 more years!

FOPABL has begun the steps toward incorporation and is ramping up our outreach and social media presence.

**Please join us with your ideas and skills. Will you attend our next meeting, Saturday, February 23rd 4pm, at the library?**

## Jamie Turbak Appointed Oakland's Director of Library Services

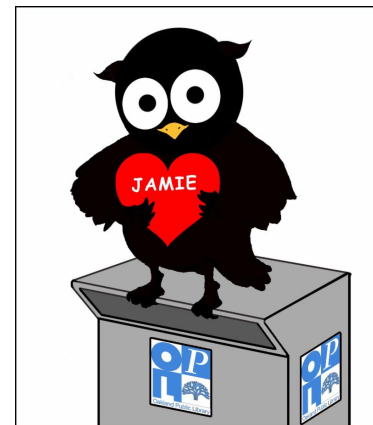
The Friends of the Piedmont Avenue Branch Library was very pleased to learn that our advocate and former branch librarian, Jamie Turbak, has been appointed the Director of Library Services for the City of Oakland. She was selected following a national search after having served as interim director since March 2018 following the retirement of the previous director Gerry Garzón.

Jamie has said that she will focus her attention on the expansion of library services in 2019, developing the system-wide policies and services that are most user-friendly for library patrons.

Oaklanders recently passed Measure D, a \$75 parcel tax that will generate an estimated \$10 million per year for library services and operations. "This is an incredibly exciting time for the Oakland Public Library and it is a deep honor to be the Director of Library Services in this vibrant city," said Turbak. "In 2019, we plan to have all library locations open more hours, improve our web-based services, embark on new partnerships with community organizations, and implement policy changes that will make the library more user-friendly. I'm proud to work alongside passionate, committed, and focused library staff who drive improvements in our service each and every day."

Jamie has worked in public libraries for more than 20 years. In 2001, she joined OPL as an entry-level, temporary part-time Library Assistant and has worked her way through the system as a Children's Librarian, Branch Manager, Supervising Librarian for Children's Services and, at the Main Branch, Administrative Librarian, Associate Director and most recently as Interim Director of Library Services.

We are fortunate to have a director working for our libraries who knows us so well and will be a valuable resource in our campaign for a permanent home for our Piedmont Avenue



The only thing that you absolutely have to know, is the location of the library.  
—Albert Einstein



## Chocolate – Wonderful Treats *and* A Learning Experience

A big thank you to those who did not attend the February 2 presentation about chocolate making and chocolates: it meant more of the delicious samples for us who were there.

Kelly Herrick of Barlovento Chocolates walked us through the whole process of producing a batch of chocolate candy, from the pods dropping off the tree to plucking the finished product from the box, and explained the range of flavor, from white to dark. As he talked, he passed samples that demonstrated the difference in taste between a cardamom and a honey chocolate, a Meyer lemon chocolate and a fresh spearmint chocolate.. We learned, among other things, that butter, oil and fat are what allow the flavor to linger on your tongue.

Each batch in the Barlovento factory starts with 400 pounds of chocolate. Once the solid chocolate is melted, it is mixed with other ingredients that are added to produce the variations in flavor. White chocolate, for instance, has more milk than dark chocolate and the taste of butter is more noticeable than in others.

The cooking and cooling temperatures are important to the mix: too cool and a sort of visible dust forms, too hot and it gets an undesirable “bloom”. Cherries and strawberries as well as nuts are sometimes added as “embellishments” while a batch is cooling. Once the chocolate has cooled and is embellished, it is ready to be boxed and brought to market where it is kept in dark, low humidity storage – not a refrigerator.

It is not often one can attend a program that involves all the senses as this one did -- hearing, sight, smell, taste and touch and in such a delicious way -- plus leave with free boxed samples.

If you'd like another opportunity to hear Kelly and taste his samples and examples, check with one of the librarians to ask about booking him for a revisit.

*by Ruby Long, a neighbor whose work has appeared in local and national publications*



## The Book Worm Recommends

### Kingdom of the Blind by Louise Penny

## A Hot Chocolate Mystery with a Bit of Horror

At a dark point in her life, Louise Penny invented a detective hero, Armand Gamache, whom she could have married, and a village, Three Pines, where she would love to live. Her hero is warm and compassionate, the village is picturesque, the other villagers are witty and accomplished, and they all eat extremely well. In front of the warm fire, they sip red wine, eat *coq au vin*, snack on fresh baguette with melted Parmesan cheese, and down gallons of hot chocolate. Possible health consequences of this diet are not mentioned.

In this fourteenth novel in the series, Gamache has been suspended as the head of the *Sûreté du Québec* because his superiors disapprove of a decision from his past that might inadvertently release a flood of high-grade drugs in Montreal. The novel intersperses cozy descriptions of life in Three Pines with shocking images of life among desperate drug addicts who are selling their bodies and their children to support their next fix. The comfort of one world highlights the squalor of the other. At the same time, Gamache is unraveling a bewildering financial swindle that could have originated with several, equally unlikely people.

If possible, it is best to read this series in order because the author adds layer after layer to her descriptions of each character's actions, fears, and motivations. The principal focus of the series is on the relationships among these central characters, and having the background of the past novels greatly increases the reader's appreciation of what they choose to do in this new chapter of their lives.

*by Ann. P. McCauley*

*Ann studied Anthropology at Cal and works in international health. She loves stories with sympathetic, wise characters who engage in humorous conversations and travel to exotic places.*

## What's Happening at the Library

### Ongoing Events – every week

**Wednesdays at 10:15 am –  
Toddler Storytime**

**Wednesdays at 11:00 am – Pre-  
School Storytime**

**Fridays at 3:30 pm – Build  
Fridays, Legos & More**

**Saturdays at 10:30 am – Baby  
Café**

**Saturdays at 2:30 pm – eBook  
Help**

**Events between February 15 –  
March 31, 2019**

**Saturday, February 23 at 4 pm – Meeting Friends of the Piedmont Avenue  
Branch Library**

The campaign for a permanent home for our library is gathering momentum. Please join us with your interest and skills. We can make it happen!

**Saturday, March 2 at 3:00 pm – Play-Well TEKnologies**

Love LEGOS? Join us as we host Play-Well TEKnologies, whose engineers are experts in helping children find their creative side through building with LEGOS. Their motto is “Kids are natural engineers. We help them realize it.” <https://www.play-well.org>

**Thursday, March 14 at 3:30 pm – Tortilla Press Printmaking for Teens**



Celebrate Women's History Month by making art prints on a tortilla press! Take inspiration for your art from amazing women in the past and today. Join us to learn a new print-making technique. For teens, ages 12-18.

**April, date to be announced – The Cowgirls Are Back!**

Sue Conley, one of the founders of the Cowgirl Creamery Cheese company, returns to tell us more about our favorite cheeses, the farmers who supply the milk, how the cheeses are made, and how they are served. There will be samples.

**Unless noted, all these activities and events take place at the [Piedmont Avenue Branch](#) 80 Echo Avenue, Oakland CA 94611**

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